

**DRAFT SUMMARIZED MINUTES
SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION**



**THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2006
KIVA CONFERENCE ROOM – CITY HALL
3939 N. DRINKWATER BOULEVARD
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85251**

CALL TO ORDER

The study session of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission was called to order by Chairman Gilliland at 5:26 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Chair Mark Gilliland
Vice-Chair Brian Davis
Commissioner Kelly McCall
Commissioner Andrea Michaels
Commissioner Matthew Taunton
Commissioner Josh Weiss

ABSENT: Commissioner William Howard

STAFF PRESENT: Rose Arballo, Transportation Commission Coordinator
Dave Meinhart, Transportation Planning and Transit Director
Mary O'Connor, Transportation General Manager
Luis Santaella, Assistant City Attorney

Introduction of New Commissioner, Mr. Josh Weiss

At the invitation of Chairman Gilliland, Mr. Weiss introduced himself.

1. **Transportation Commission Ordinance #3680**

With regards to the Transportation Commission Ordinance and interest of one of the Commissioners in having the Commission take a larger role in the project design review process, Mr. Santaella reported that this would require a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. Initiating such a change is a complex process that would be beyond the role of staff. He summarized this could be done, but would be difficult and would require an initiation from City Council or the Planning Commission.

Ms. O'Connor, Transportation General Manager, added that there are ways, from a policy perspective, for the Commission to be more involved. Commissioner Michaels asked how the Commission's involvement compares to the role of a board like the Development Review Board. Ms. O'Connor replied that the Planning Commission has responsibility for the General Plan and the Transportation Commission is responsible for the transportation element of the General Plan.

However, Transportation Department staff review private development projects, following General Plan and other plan guidelines, as well as using specific design guidelines such as the Council-adopted Scottsdale Standard Details and the Design Standards and Policies Manual, scheduled to be adopted by Council. She outlined the meetings where City staff from various departments discuss specific projects and recommendations. Mr. Meinhart clarified that the Transportation Master Plan is to be created to support the goals of the General Plan.

Mr. Santaella noted that the key legal point is to address the difference between a regulatory commission, such as the Development Review Board or the Planning Commission, and an advisory commission, such as the Transportation Commission. Vice-Chair Davis recalled that Commissioner Howard's comments were that he would welcome the opportunity for the Commission to weigh in on proposed developments. Mr. Santaella replied that, if this were to become a required part of the Commission's powers and duties, this would require a text amendment. In response to a question from Commissioner McCall, he clarified that citizens may appear before any of the regulatory bodies and City Council to express their comments. Ms. O'Connor explained that she or other staff take the Commission's position on relevant topics to the regulatory boards. (Alameda Road was used as a recent example.)

As things now stand, Mr. Santaella noted that the Transportation Commission may provide input but is not required to provide input on every project. Ms. O'Connor added that City staff documents all public input on development cases and undertook to forward the Commissioners a link to review all the information from a sample case on the City website. She opined that an expanded role for the Transportation Commission would not encompass obtaining more public input, rather to assure there was a specific level of technical and policy direction that the regulatory boards and City Council would need to consider.

Mr. Santaella commented that one other legal question related to the ethics policy has been raised but cannot be addressed because it is not on the agenda. He advised the Commission that questions on the ethics policy should be directed to Mr. Jay Osborn in the City Attorney's Office. Ms. O'Connor noted that the ethics policy materials had just been received by staff and were sent to the Commissioners by e-mail today. A discussion will be on the agenda of a future meeting.

Chair Mark Gilliland recalled that the Commission made a recommendation on the bylaws, but not the Ordinance. He recalled that Commissioners Howard and Hill had expressed interest in obtaining information about the operations budget. Ms. O'Connor noted that this is more of a policy issue than a legal issue. Originally, the Commission reviewed primarily the capital improvement program budget items associated with the 2% sales tax, but recently staff has also provided information regarding operating budget requests including departmental staffing and transit operations. It is more challenging to provide information about departments that do not report to Transportation. For example, maintenance is within Community Services. Streets maintenance and signal operations are within Municipal Services. Ms. O'Connor remarked that she could request budget or financial reports from these areas.

Chairman Gilliland commented that when others rely upon the Transportation Commission's recommendations, it is important that they not get stalemated by questions about the cost of associated operational items. The Commission should be able to get the information to make an informed recommendation. Ms. O'Connor replied that staff could provide the information on an item-by-item basis. It would be a functional shift to have these areas report to the Transportation Commission. Before implementing such a change, it would likely be advisable to involve the departments in question in that discussion.

Mr. Santaella asked Chair Gilliland about the Commission's role. He and Ms. O'Connor outlined some of the possible ramifications if the Transportation Commission were to start giving input on the operations of other departments. Chair Gilliland replied that in past discussions, the Commission suggested that they gather information to make an informed decision. Ms. O'Connor advised that Transportation staff interact with a host of departments when working on major projects and that perhaps staff should share more information with the Commission on such projects.

Chairman Gilliland asked when the Commission would get to look at the updated text of the Ordinance. He said that the Commission was hoping to ensure that more information would be available to them. Ms. O'Connor noted that some changes have been made. She opined that language can be included allowing the Commission to receive the information without assuming a regulatory role.

2. **Review of Tonight's Regular Meeting Agenda**

- **Transportation Master Plan Update - High Capacity Transit**

Ms. O'Connor stated that staff of HDR Inc. would give a presentation on High Capacity Transit alternatives for evaluation.

- **School Safety Audits**

Ms. O'Connor reported that the department is doing construction as a result of the school safety audits which will be described in Mr. Williams' presentation.

- **Current Transportation Project Update**

Ms. O'Connor noted that tonight's update on projects/public meetings that are being held will be fairly brief, as much was covered in the June update. In August, staff expect to have more information to share.

Commissioner Taunton inquired about future agenda items and the timing and topic of the joint meetings. Ms. O'Connor replied that the topic of all joint meetings is the Transportation Master Plan. Staff hopes to arrange a joint meeting with the Planning Commission because they want to institute a text amendment. A joint meeting with the Airport Advisory Commission is to be organized to discuss airport circulation issues, which is an overlapping topic. Also related to the Transportation Master Plan, there are plans to hold joint meetings with the Phoenix Citizens Transit Commission and the Tempe Transportation Commission.

Commissioner Taunton noted that transit improvements and changes to the bus service would take effect on Monday, July 24. Ms. O'Connor undertook to discuss these in the meeting, noting that staff is working on frequency improvements which will hopefully go into effect in the fall. Commissioner Taunton summarized that Proposition 400 was supposed to fund a certain level of service, but there have been some shortfalls in implementation. Regional equity issues are involved. The immediate improvements are nonetheless significant.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Study Session of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

***NOTE: VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDINGS OF SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS FOLLOWING THE MEETING DATE.**

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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

A/V Tronics, Inc.

Officially approved by the Transportation Commission on _____